

ABSTRACT

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5 A method and system is disclosed for searching a database resident list or set
of lists for user-defined text patterns, identifying a match, reporting information
related to the search result, and maintaining the lists to be searched in a mutually
updating distributed database with automatic failover. One embodiment of the
present invention provides a method of using a computer utility program to maintain a
database of sanctioned entities in a plurality of sanction lists where such sanction lists
arise, for example, from OFAC, foreign governments, or internally. The computer
10 utility program allows an authorized user to search user-selected text patterns against
the sanction lists to identify a sanctioned entity. Further, the computer utility program
is network based so that sanction lists may be searched using different hardware
configurations worldwide. In addition, because the database is distributed and
mutually updating, sanction lists may be dynamically updated globally and are
15 completely redundant.